

Project Overview

Runoff from Panoche and Silver Creek Watershed (PSCW) has historically created flooding and sedimentation problems for the City of Mendota and surrounding agricultural lands. The PSCW is a principal source of selenium, salts, and other trace elements, contaminating the soils and groundwater in the Panoche alluvial fan and San Joaquin River. The PSCW Coordinated Resource Management and Planning team (CRMP) is working toward a comprehensive, collaborative watershed program. The program uses a consensus process to encourage improvement in beneficial uses and minimize damage to the watershed. The PSCW CRMP's objectives include decreasing flood damage and erosion, increasing channel stability, enhancing riparian areas and wildlife habitat, and preventing the impairment of high quality water.

Assessments have been completed in other parts of this watershed. However, owing to the size of this watershed (approximately 300,000 acres), these were done on a sub-watershed basis. This project completes the assessment of the entire watershed. It enables the CRMP and its participants to continue development and implementation of a collaborative, comprehensive watershed management plan that will address the program's objectives.

Monitoring to assess current resource conditions measures vegetative cover and rangeland use, estimates erosion from streambanks and upland areas, and delineates flood and sediment damage areas. Citizen monitoring, including areas of streambank erosion and historical flood and sediment damage, is also incorporated. These data are then incorporated into a geographic information system (GIS). Evaluation of the collected data facilitates characterization of current resource conditions that will contribute directly to improved management and decision-making regarding PSCW soil and water resources.



Surveying a channel cross section for crest stage gauge setup on Panoche Creek.

Contact Information

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Students learn what permitting and equipment might be needed to remove invasive tamarisk.

Award Amount
\$200,000

Watershed
Arroyo Pasajero Watershed

County
Fresno and Kings Counties

CALFED Region
San Joaquin Valley Region

Legislative Districts
US Congress: 20
State Assembly: 30
State Senate: 16

Purpose

Develop ranch plans and implement best management practices (BMPs) to improve conditions in the Arroyo Pasajero Watershed

Project Goals

- Provide assistance to landowners in southwestern Fresno and Kings Counties for the development and implementation of farm and ranch plans.
- Decrease grazing impacts on the watershed.
- Reduce erosion through implementation of BMPs, including protecting stream channels and banks.
- Reduce flooding that enters the California Aqueduct and lowers water quality and threatens the integrity of the aqueduct.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

The Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan states that stressors to ecological processes, habitats, and species in the West San Joaquin Basin include livestock grazing, nonnative species, and agricultural practices. Through the implementation of BMPs, this project aims to address these stressors. Individually tailored ranch plans include a description of BMPs such as removal of invasive plant species, improvement of grazing patterns to decrease erosion and improve water quality, implementation of measures to control agriculture runoff, and stabilization of streambanks. Implementation of this project helps achieve the Ecosystem Restoration Program goals for the West San Joaquin Basin. The project will also reduce flooding, which impairs water quality and threatens the integrity of the California Aqueduct.